

to attribute the significant increase in population during recent years to the improvement in medical service and sanitation measures and betterment of economic conditions generally. As specific evidence the Peking regime points to such places as the village group of Shen-chuang hsiang, Lu-shan hsien, in Honan Province. The information on population of this locality shown in Table 5 was obtained from the 1953 census:

Table 5. Population of Shen-chuang Hsiang

Children		Sex Ratio		
Age	Number	Age	Male	Female
1	93	1	42	51
2	80	3	32	33
3	65	4	22	20
4	42	5-59	1,273	1,041

* / Chu Wei, "What the Population Figures of a Hsiang Tell," People's China, June 16, 1954, pp. 16-18.

Lacking additional details, the figures in Table 5 may be open to any of the following interpretations: (1) The infant mortality in this locality through the past four years has been startlingly high. (2) Infant girls die more frequently than infant boys. (3) The birth rate has increased. (4) Social conditions have improved in general, including the abolition of such practices as infanticide, of which infant girls used to be common victims. The Communists do not hesitate, of course, to conclude that the two latter possibilities are actual fact, and there is no way to prove or disprove their claim since the mortality rate and other relevant information on the population of Shen-chuang has not been released. [847]

workers were organized into 114 mobile teams; 22 per cent were doctors with Chinese medical training. Some 270,000 people received treatment, according to the same report, and 79 per cent of these treatments were administered without charge.²⁴ However, no attempt has been made to show what groups constituted the 21 per cent who had to pay for medical treatment during the disaster.

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VII. CONCLUSION

In Central-South China, infanticide still exists in certain areas. It is a serious matter and helps to suggest the complexity of the social problems and the uneven progress achieved in the different regions and communities in Communist China. In four counties of southeastern Kwangtung Province, 1,882 cases of infanticide were reported in 1950-51.²⁵ According to the record of two orphanages in Chanchiang (Kwangchowan), 14,193 female foundlings were taken in during the period 1935-1951.²⁶ The Communists blamed the situation on existing social patterns of inequality between the sexes, superstition, the decadent feudal system, and "feudalistic ideas" on marriage.

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Although schistosoma japonicum is most serious in East China, the Central-South Region is also effected by this peculiar disease, particularly in the area along the Yangtze River in Hupeh Province. The Communists have attempted to fight schistosomiasis, but a cure has not yet been found.

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24. Ibid.

25. Yangtze Daily, Aug. 6, 1952, p. 3.

26. South China Daily, Aug. 28, 1952, p. 3.